Violation of Indian Telegraph Act by Multi National Companies

1663: SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multinational Telecom Services Companies like AT & T, BT, Equant and MCI including their affHiates/sister concerns have applied for NLD and ILD licenses;

(b) whether any show-cause notices, as reported in the Press for violation of the provision of the Indian Telegraph Act have been issued to these companies for providing telecom services without any licenses/ permission causing huge losses to Government by way of license fees, entry fees, taxes including the violations of FEMA and other laws;

(c) whether these companies are still continuing illegal telecom services; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any punitive action against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) M/s AT & T GIobal Network Services India Private Limited has applied for grant of National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) Service Licences.

(b) Show cause notices were issued M/s AT&T, M/s BT, M/s Equant and M/s. MCI.

(c) and (d) The Case is under examination and no final decision has been taken so far.

Broadcasting code on Sting Operations

1664. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following some sensational sting operations undertaken by electronic media, Government have drafted a comprehensive set up guidelines contemplating a series of "Do's" and "Don'ts" for broadcast media;